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| Your Name: | B. Bockhahn | Park: | NODI |
| Program title: (fill this in last) | "The Great Caterpillar Race" | | |

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| Theme Statement: (complete sentence to summarize program and why it is important) |
| Caterpillars are unique and beautiful creatures that live and move very differently from humans. They are an important part of the food chain, without them the majority of our migratory birds could not survive! |

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| Audience: | All ages |
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| Goal(s): (why you are doing the program) |
| Teach about the locomotion of a caterpillar |

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| Introduction: (grabs attention, states theme, explains how program is organized) |
| Caterpillars are unique and beautiful creatures that live and move very differently from humans. They are an important part of the food chain, without them the majority of our migratory birds could not survive! We're going to build teams of students who will become caterpillars and race each other! |
| Body: (your main points or subthemes – 4 or fewer recommended) |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Caterpillar biology and life cycle 2) Caterpillar body parts – legs, tentacles 3) The Great Caterpillar Race |
| Conclusion: (reinforce the theme and encourage future participation) |
| Caterpillars are an important part of the ecosystem; their unique life style helps them survive. Next time you see a caterpillar take a moment to enjoy their beauty. Consider joining us for an upcoming butterfly count, build a butterfly garden, etc. |

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| Audiovisuals: (make sure everyone can see and experience the props) |
| Caterpillar pictures, puppets. |
| Audience Participation: (think of ways to include audience) |
| The Great Caterpillar Race |

The Great Caterpillar Race

- In this game teams of students will form a giant human caterpillar to race. Caterpillars don't talk, so there is no talking unless I say!
- Participants should form two to three lines of 8-10.
- It works best if they arrange themselves in order of height, shortest in the front and tallest towards the rear.
- Each participant should place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them with elbows bent, not straight armed.
- The three front participants each with a pair of legs are the "true legs" of the caterpillar
- The rest of the participants are the caterpillars "pro-legs"
- Have participants in front on both caterpillars repeat after you "true legs" and then the students in the back repeat after you "pro-legs". Do this 2-3 times.
- The first person in each line will hold a pair of swim noodles, tentacles.
- In order to move participants must hop with both legs forward, ONE AT A TIME. Once the person in front of you hops, then you hop. Hopping out of order will break your caterpillar, and we don't want that!
- After the last person in line hops they then lean forward slightly pushing on the shoulders of the person in front of you, signaling them to also push forward. At this point the entire caterpillar chain should sway forward, and once the front person feels a push they begin the hopping sequence again. Practice this a few times.
- Once they feel ready, line up for the Great Caterpillar Race. Have each line face one direction and on your signal begin moving towards you. You can use a giant green leaf dangled from a rope as "bait" for the caterpillars to follow.
- Designate an end line or dangle the bait in front of them as you walk backwards, making them turn if you desire.
- The first caterpillar to reach out with their tentacles and touch the leaf is the winner!

Could you feel the movement of the caterpillar?

Can you imagine trying to do this while being preyed upon by a spider, bird or stink bug?